

Patent

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. 10/625,060

Confirmation No. 8260

Applicant: Bryan B. Sauer *et al*

Filed: July 22, 2003

Group Art Unit: 1774

Examiner: Jill M. Gray

Docket No. CL1833 US NA

Customer No. 23906

February 11, 2005

Response to Office Action

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 15, 2004 Office Action concerning this application, Applicant respectfully submits the following:

In the Action, the Examiner has required restriction of the invention under 35 U.S.C. §121. Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I (Claims 1~15 and 43~47 drawn to a fiber).

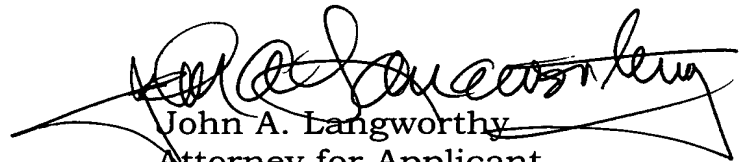
Applicant has elected the claims of Group I as drawn to a fiber. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the claims of Group IV could be combined with the claims of Group I (drawn to a fiber) for search and examination purposes.

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Groups I and IV already have Claims 43~47 in common, and it would therefore appear that the search and examination of the claims of these two groups combined together would be made in view of a substantial amount of related art, and that the search and examination together could therefore be made without imposing a serious burden.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that Group I, as elected, be combined for search and examination with Group IV.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Langworthy", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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